

A CASE STUDY OF SELECTED LOCATIONS REGARDING
THE REASONS FOR SCHOOL NON-ATTENDANCE AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SRI LANKA

By

JANAKI DEVI RANMUTHUGALA, B.Sc.(Agric.) (Cey.), M.Sc.(SL)

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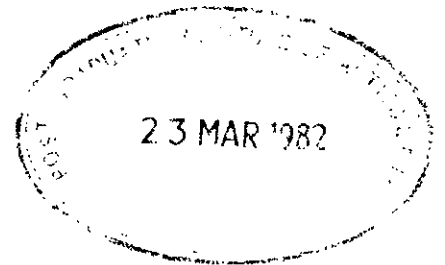
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Approved.

Jana Wijaya
Dathapala
H. H. H. H.

Examination Committee



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ABSTRACT

This case study of selected locations regarding the reasons for school non-attendance and the implications for agricultural development in Sri Lanka, has been dealt with under three main headings:

1. The influence of farmer education level on the adoption of modern farming practices.
2. The influence of schooling on children's attitudes towards agriculture, measured by job preference, the studying of agriculture as a subject in school and knowledge of agriculture.
3. Reasons for school non-attendance.

All tests were run in respect of schooling, location and sex separately. The findings and recommendations presented here are limited to this case study only and should not be considered as conclusive or general.

Data, tests and analysis have revealed four significant relationships which led to the investigation into the reasons for school non-attendance. The relationships are:

1. A positive relation between correct adoption of modern farming practices and farmer education level.
2. A positive relation between dropping out of school and preference for agricultural occupations.
3. A positive relation between dropping out of school and the studying of agriculture in school.
4. A positive relation between schooling and knowledge of agriculture.

The indications are that school non-attendance will have a negative effect on farmer education level, which in turn will have a negative effect on the future of agriculture in the country. Therefore an investigation into the reasons for school non-attendance is justified.

In this study the statistical tool used to assess the statistical significance of the data was the chi square test.

As regards recommendations the two broad objectives are:

1. To improve the status and quality of the school agriculture programme
2. To minimise dropping out of school in Sri Lanka.

It is hoped that while attempting to achieve these objectives the long range objective of attempting to achieve agricultural development in Sri Lanka could be somewhat met.

Fig. 1

MAP OF SRI LANKA
SHOWING STUDY LOCATIONS

